

controlled release of ionic silver into the exudate for the maintenance of an effective antimicrobial activity within the dressing throughout the wear time of the dressing.

9. The wound dressing of claim 7 wherein the anionic, amphoteric or hydrophilic polymer is selected from the group consisting of polysaccharides, modified polysaccharides, polyvinylpyrrolidone, polyvinyl alcohols, polyvinyl ethers, polyurethanes, polyacrylates, polyacrylamides, collagen, gelatin and mixtures thereof.
10. The wound dressing of claim 7 in the form of fibres, or a powder or distributed within a matrix of an adhesive.
11. The wound dressing of claim 7 wherein the dressing comprises from 0.1 to 20% by weight of silver.
12. The wound dressing of claim 7 wherein the release of ionic silver into water is less than 1 ppm.
13. The wound dressing of claim 8 wherein the anionic, amphoteric or hydrophilic polymer is selected from the group consisting of polysaccharides, modified polysaccharides, polyvinylpyrrolidone, polyvinyl alcohols, polyvinyl ethers, polyurethanes, polyacrylates, polyacrylamides, collagen, gelatin and mixtures thereof.
14. The wound dressing of claim 8 in the form of fibres, or a powder or distributed within a matrix of an adhesive.
15. The wound dressing of claim 8 wherein the dressing comprises from 0.1 to 20% by weight of silver.
16. The wound dressing of claim 8 wherein the release of ionic silver into water is less than 1 ppm.